

EXPRESS OPINION

Democracy at breakfast

"Hands up for Democracy," says the TUC in a propaganda pamphlet. It is an unhappy title. "Hands up" usually implies "your money or your life." And democracy is rarely the winner of raised hands, or clenched fists, at mass meetings.

There is an air of injured innocence about the document: "Every one of us has fewer rights than we had when Mrs Thatcher came to power."

What the TUC is really saying is that trade union leaders have fewer powers over their members, and will have fewer still if the Tories' proposed reforms go through.

Union members' rights, however, will be increased. It is this which worries the leaders.

They do not like postal voting. The idea of members filling in the ballot paper for union elections "over the breakfast table with a copy of the morning paper," to quote the pamphlet, fills them with dread.

But that is the essence of democracy. The more the wife and family are involved "over the breakfast table" the truer will be the decisions reached.

The reason for the union chiefs' plaintive whine is that they have not been doing their job. Which is not to get involved in politics. Not to try to run the country. Not to manipulate the workers for their own power and glory.

But is to look after the interests of the men and women who pay their salaries. And to make sure that dividends of successful capitalism are reaped by their members.

Waiting for

Ted's apology

LAST Friday ex-Premier Ted Heath launched a virulent and totally unjustified attack on the Daily Express, and in particular on our political editor, John Warden.

We were greatly taken aback by this attack, since the Daily Express holds Mr Heath in high regard.

HE SAID that a Daily Express story about his having been delayed by the Queen Mother's car when on his way to a division at the House of Commons was "a disgraceful piece of journalism."

He was wrong.

HE SAID that the Daily Express had wrongly reported that he had complained to Scotland Yard.

He was wrong.

HE SAID that the story was designed to discredit him in the eyes of the public.

He was wrong.

HE SAID that John Warden, who is the greatly respected Chairman of the Parliamentary Lobby, had broken Lobby rules in reporting the story.

He was wrong.

It is not uncommon for politicians who have said something foolish to attack the Press and claim that they have been misrepresented.

But Mr Heath has a reputation as an honourable man — albeit one given to occasional fits of pique.

Is he honourable enough to say "Sorry"?

MOSCOW LINK WITH BOMB PROTESTERS

Exposed: The hard Left behind CND

THERE are more than 250,000 members of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

The huge majority are ordinary, caring people who believe sincerely that they are actively involved in a campaign to save mankind.

But how many have given a thought to the politics of the organisation?

If they haven't, then they should—right now.

I can reveal that the majority of the 26-strong governing National Council are committed Left-wingers.

These are the people who run CND:

Mrs Joan Ruddock, "Chairperson" stood as a Labour Parliamentary candidate in 1979.

One of her Vice-Chairmen is Michael Pentz. He has been regularly a Communist candidate in local elections.

He is a leading member of the British Peace Association. The BPA is an ancillary of the World Peace Council, a Soviet front organisation founded by Joseph Stalin. Mr Pentz is also a member of the World Federation of Scientific Workers, another Soviet front.

ENTHUSIASTIC

Another Vice-Chairman is Roger Spiller, for long an associate of the International Socialist (that is, Left-wing revolutionary Movement).

The Treasurer of CND, Mick Elliott, is merely recorded as a member of the Executive Committee of the Sheffield District Labour Party, but it is worth mentioning that in 1980 he was an enthusiastic and supportive participant at a meeting in Sofia of the Soviet-sponsored World Federation of Peoples for Peace.

John Cox, another Council member, has been a Communist for more than 30 years. In 1977 he wrote in the Communist Morning Star that "by no stretch of the imagination could it be argued that Soviet defence expenditure exceeds or even approaches that of her political enemies."

This statement is so mani-



By PATRICK COSGRAVE

festly untrue that it assaults the imagination.

Even he, however, did not go as far as supporting his fellow Council member Helen John, in the CND Newsletter: "There will be a great need to break the law," in support of the organisation's aims.

In addition to such people there are Ian Davison, a Communist, and E. P. Thompson and Phil Bolsover, avowedly ex-Communists, but still self-declared Marxists.

INFLUENCE

As well as these there are Candy Atherton, Joy Hurcombe, Penny Auty, Pat Arrowsmith and Alasdair Beal, all Labour Party members, and self-identified as members of Labour's hard Left.

Of the Communists we can say this. Considering the Communist Party cannot get a single MP elected and would be hard put to save a deposit in any constituency,

their influence in CND seems disproportionate.

However, although the 14 people I have described constitute a majority on CND's National Council, there are 12 other members.

None declared a party affiliation at CND's last annual conference, but they did provide biographies.

Only one claims to have a full-time job outside CND. That is Cathy Ashton, who works for the Social Work Training Council, though Dan Smith is a full-time "author and researcher," on peace and anti-nuclear subjects.

Nineteen-year-old Annajoy David has been involved with CND for four years and is a full-time employee of the organisation.

So are Meg Beresford, who works for the CND paper Sanity, Chris Dalton, Cathy Loukes, who handles day-to-day administration for Youth CND, and Diane Smith.

Fran D'Eath records that the best seven months of her

life were spent with the Greenham Common women. Sue Lamb (who has two children) observes only a "total commitment" to CND. Angela Phillips divides her time between CND and an organisation called Women for Peace on Earth.

Annie Tuncliffe does likewise and the last council member, Simone Wilkinson, simply describes herself as a CND activist.

On their own evidence it does not seem very likely that any of the 12 would be likely to oppose the hard Left trend of the first 14 described.

There is another piece of evidence. At the last elections to the Council Bill Howard, Sue Duerdorth and Ron McIlroy were all defeated. All three were immediately appointed regional directors of CND.

All three are members of the Communist Party.

As if to prove their political colours, next month delegates from CND are off to Prague for discussions with the World Peace Council.

DEFENCE

CND has also just announced an extension of its campaign of harassment to include companies involved in defence, notably Tarmac, which built the silos at Greenham Common.

CND insists, nonetheless, that though it is a political organisation, it is not party political.

Monsignor Bruce Kent, CND's General Secretary, recently attacked the handful of organisations who have set out to provide resolute opposition to CND.

He described them as "offensive, aggressive and unjust."

Former Labour Minister Lord Chalfont, a member of the Committee for Peace with Freedom, drily observed: "I find it curious that CND should complain when their opponents meet from time to time. Last summer the CND leaders were exchanging views in Moscow and this year will be doing it in Prague. We usually have our meetings in London."

How BA soared into profit

BY FRANK ROBSON

A STREAMLINED British Airways is soaring in profitable blue skies again, leaving behind the thunderclouds of last year's £544 million losses.

They have jetted back from the brink of disaster.

Certainly, today's expected announcement of a £60 million profit for 1982/83 will make the airline more attractive in the market-place, with "privatisation" just around the corner.

Not surprisingly BA will be telling the good news just weeks after the end of the financial year — contrasting with the six-month delay in

confirming the disastrous figures of 1981/82.

So what sort of magic wand has been wielded by chairman Sir John King to bring about the improvements? The answer has been—economies.

Sixty-two loss-making routes have been pruned, and the airline's fleet has been cut back from 200 to 144 aircraft.

Until two years ago, wages accounted for a third of the airline's outgoings, with fuel bills costing another third. Now, with the workforce trimmed from 59,000 to 37,000 (with another 2,000 going during this year) millions have been cut from the wages bill.

Staff and unions had given "tremendous co-operation" throughout the necessary voluntary cuts in the workforce, said BA spokesman John Perry.

Throughout the year BA has confirmed its position as one of the world's leading international airlines, carrying 15 million passengers.

The success and popularity on Atlantic and European routes of its Club class has made a big impact.

Punctuality has been greatly improved, and so has in-flight service.

Operating profit for the past year was £170 million — almost 14 times greater than for 1981/82.

After just a couple of months in service, the airline's new Rolls-Royce-powered Boeing 757s are pointing the way to greater savings.

Concorde, meanwhile, has played its part by making an operating surplus of £7 million on the New York and Washington routes from London.

Cummings is on holiday